

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2511

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11479

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF PCI LEADER'S VISIT TO AMERICA

REF: ROME 11473

1. ITALIAN PRESS HAS REPLAYED WEEKLY "IL MONDO'S" SPECULATION THAT PCI CHIEF ENRICO BERLINGUER WILL BE VISITING AMERICA IN THE FALL AFTER "SECRET NEGOTIATIONS" BETWEEN PARTY OFFICIAL SERGIO SEGRE AND ZYMUNT NAGORSKI OF COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. NOTWITHSTANDING DENIALS BY PCI AND EMBASSY, PRESS CONTINUES TO SPECULATE ON VISIT'S IMPLICATIONS AS USG POLICY SHIFT TOWARD PCI. GENESIS OF SPECULATION IS "TIME'S" JULY 15 QUOTE OF BERLINGUER'S DESIRE TO VISIT US TO EXPLAIN THE "REALITIES" OF PCI AND NAGORSKI'S OP-ED PIECE IN "NEW YORK TIMES" SAYING US SHOULD "RUN RISK" OF GREATER CONTACTS WITH PCI.

2. THIS MORNING'S "LA STAMPA" DESCRIBES NAGORSKI AS "AUTHORITATIVE" MEMBER OF COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, CONSULTATIVE ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT." OTHER PAPERS IMPLY THAT EVEN IF TRIP IS NOT FIRMLY SCHEDULED, IT IS NOT RULED OUT FOR THE FUTURE.

3. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED QUERIES FROM NY TIMES, REUTERS, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, AND "SECOLO XIX" OF GENOA ASKING IF BERLINGUER WOULD RECEIVE VISA IF HE APPLIED. WE HAVE REPLIED THAT THE QUESTION IS HYPOTHETICAL AND WE KNOW OF NO PLANS FOR BERLINGUER TO VISIT US. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CLARIFY SITUATION IN VIEW OF
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ITALIAN PRESS' INCLINATION TO DRUM UP SPECULATION AND WIDESPREAD

BELIEF THAT NAGORSKI WAS PUTTING OUT FEELERS ON BEHALF OF
USG.VOLPE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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